

Application No. 09/928,610

### REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks and allowance of the claims. In the event that the claims are not allowed, applicant respectfully requests an Advisory Action.

#### Rejections Based Upon 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-22, 25-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,078 (Smith). Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires in part a communication hub having a control system configured to *switch between* a configuration mode and an operation mode. Claim 1 further requires in part a mode selection interface configured to receive an input *from a user* that selects one of the configuration mode and the operation mode. Smith discloses a hub that is always in operation mode (two types of operational modes- "hub mode" and "station mode"), rather than switching between a configuration mode and an operation mode as required by claim 1.

Even if Smith could be interpreted as having a configuration mode and an operation mode, Smith does not disclose *switching between* the two modes. Rather, the hub in Smith is always capable of determining whether or not a new device is permitted to join the network. In other words, the hub in Smith does not *switch between* a configuration mode and an operation mode, as required by claim 1. In addition, the hub in Smith performs its determination process automatically as a result of hardware signals, such as a phantom current (Smith, col. 5, lines 50-60). In contrast, claim 1 requires a *user input*.

Independent claim 12 and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to claim 1. Applicant refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims for the sake of brevity.

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**CONCLUSION**

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore solicits their allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

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